

Vietnam COURIER

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South Viet Nam

* NEW ENEMY DISASTER IN BEN TRE PROVINCE:

**1,000 Men Put Out of Action and 18
Vessels Sunk Between Nov. 1 and Nov. 4.**

* **First Cavalry Division (Air Mobile) Badly
Mauled in Tay Ninh Province.**

* **Serious U.S. Losses in Northern Quang Tri.**

* **P.L.A.F. ARTILLERY PARTICULARLY
ACTIVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.**

* **65 Planes and Helicopters
Downed by Regional
Troops and Guerillas in
38 Days.**

On November 12,
Haiphong A.A.
forces knocked
down a pilotless
plane, bringing the
total of U.S. air-
craft downed in
North Viet Nam to

3,245

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THE spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam today issued the following statement on the November 13 statement of the spokesman of the U.S. State Department:

"Regarding the November 13, 1968 statement made by the spokesman on the U.S. State Department on behalf of the acting U.S. Secretary of State, the spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam states as follows:

1. On representation arrangements at the forthcoming conference on the settlement

D.R.V.N. FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT ON THE NOVEMBER 13 STATEMENT OF THE SPOKESMAN OF THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

of the Viet Nam problem, the representative of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam in the official conversations in Paris has rejected the proposal of the U.S. representative on a type of conference comprising two sides in which the two sides

are to organize themselves according to their choice. After the unconditional cessation of U.S. air, naval and artillery bombardments on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam asserted in its November 2 statement: "In agreement with the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam declares its readiness to participate in a conference whose attendance will comprise representatives of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States and the Saigon administration. The Saigon administration's attendance at the said conference does not involve recognition of that regime by the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam."

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam stresses once again that the present Saigon Adminis-

tration is an instrument of the U.S. imperialism for the conduct of their aggressive war and the carrying out of neo-imperialism in South Viet Nam, and that it does not represent anybody. The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the organization and leader of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation; it is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. It is for the South Vietnamese people to settle the Viet Nam problem must necessarily be attended by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation as an independent and equal partner.

2 - The U.S. State Department has declared that the United States is "continuing reconnaissance operations required" in the air space of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, that is to say, the United States gives itself the right to encroach on the sovereignty, territory and security of the Democratic

Republic of Viet Nam, an independent and sovereign country. This is an insolent claim of the aggressors who trample upon the Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam and international law, and seriously challenge world and American opinion.

Throughout the past years and in the official conversations in Paris, the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam has firmly and repeatedly demanded that the United States unconditionally stop the bombing raids and other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. After the unconditional cessation of U.S. air, naval and artillery bombardments on the entire territory of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam on November 2, 1968 firmly demanded once again that the United States put an end to its war of aggression against Viet Nam, and give up for good all its encroachments on the sovereignty and security of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The U.S. imperialism's contentions in this matter have further exposed the U.S. rulers as stubborn aggressors.

3. With regard to the so-called "military actions in or near the demilitarized zone and indiscriminate attacks on military cities in the South," the United States

(Continued page 7)

"The 14 Million South Vietnamese Will Fight on Until Not A Single U.S. Aggressor Remains in Our Country"

(NFL CC Presidium's message to President Ho Chi Minh)

Esteemed President,

WE have listened with enthusiasm and pride to every word of your Nov. 3, 1968 appeal to all compatriots and fighters. We are deeply touched by the keen interest with which you follow each advance of the South Viet Nam revolutionary movement. You have made an appraisal of the situation and shown the way toward victory, which fully meets the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people. Your appeal has instilled into us and the entire armed forces and people of South Viet Nam a great encouragement and an iron confidence in our final victory.

We convey to you our most heartfelt and respectful thanks, and promise you that we will instruct the entire people and armed forces to strengthen their solidarity, increase their fighting will, overcome every hardship and accept every sacrifice, translate into might and main every appeal and demand, and stiffen their resolve to fight until complete victory over the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, in order to liberate the South, defend the North and achieve the ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

On this occasion, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation conveys its warmest congratulations and thanks to the 17 million brothers and sisters in the North who have defeated the U.S. imperialists' war of destruction and are wholeheartedly supporting the liberation fight of South Viet Nam thereby fulfilling with merit their obligation as great rear base toward the great front.

Viet Nam is one, the Vietnamese people are one. Rivers may run dry and mountains may wear out, but this truth will never change. The South Vietnamese people ardently cherish peace, but this must be a peace in independence and freedom. The 14 million South Vietnamese people pledge themselves to unite millions as one man, stand shoulder to shoulder with their 17 million northern compatriots and fight on with arms in hands until not a single U.S. aggressor remains in our country.

The U.S. imperialists will surely be defeated!
The Vietnamese people will surely win!
May you enjoy good health and a long life.

South Viet Nam, Nov. 6, 1968,
NGUYEN HUU THO
President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. Central Committee

Nixon Unlikely to Ward off U.S. Aggressors' Defeat

AT the recent U.S. presidential election, Republican candidate Richard Nixon had a very close win over his Democratic opponent Hubert Humphrey.

In the opinion of impartial observers, Nixon's victory by no means indicated that either he or the Republican party enjoyed any degree of confidence from the American people. It simply was a sign that the latter were sick and tired of the Democrats and just voted for a non-Demo-

crat as the only way to show their discontent.

Indeed, the last eight years of Democratic rule (1961-68) have been continual failures of the Administration, both at home and abroad: the Viet Nam war in particular, with its enormous costs in men and money, and the painful defeats suffered by the American expeditionary forces, has become an American nightmare. As said Joseph Clark

(Continued page 2)

3

Abrams Beaten in His Own Game

WHEN four-star general Creighton Abrams succeeded Westmoreland in April 1968, the American press liked to present him as the tank-man of Patton's army riding on French roads from the Channel to the Ardennes and apparently contributing to the U.S. victory over the Nazis in their last ditch on the Western front in 1944. It is therefore easy to under-

stand the role he has been assigning to the panzers, to these "steel fortresses" with a great mobility and a formidable fire-power, in the U.S. aggression in South Viet Nam. Before Abrams, M. 41 tanks and M. 113 and M. 118 amphibious cars were widely used against the guerrillas, but this time particular emphasis is laid on them by this panzer-war specialist.

INEFFICIENCY OF ARMoured "BELTS"

In the new strategy with which he has replaced his predecessor's "search-and-destroy", Abrams heavily tanks on his armored vehicles to make security "belts" and "enclaves" and as force of intervention in his "clear and hold" strategy. Motorized infantry units have been set up on the spot as in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces during the P.L.A.F. attacks last summer. A new division of this kind has been sent over by air and sea and its first brigade landed in Da Nang on August 2, 1968. The 11th Armoured Regiment has been continually replenished in men and materials to fill the gaps caused by the Liberation troops.

The defense system of the enemy is made up of such belts as barbed wire entanglements, mine-fields, ditches and also strategic hamlets. Added to all this are the protection belts formed by armored vehicles surrounding this network. Abrams thinks that this "armor" which has a great fire-power and can furthermore be changed at will will make his defence much stronger and less "stiff".

"ENCLAVES" OVERRUN ONE AFTER THE OTHER

In his "defence in depth" tactics, Abrams also uses armored vehicles to set up "enclaves" in the centre of their bases so as to make very powerful resistance nests and a mobile force capable of rapidly rescuing any threatened point in his outer belt, of bridging the gap in the defence system or launching counter-attacks to re-occupy the sectors taken by the besiegers. Under P.L.A.F. powerful assaults, Abrams goes to the length of imitating the defenders of Sebastopol or Stalingrad, to bury his vehicles in the earth so as to make them genuine fortlets redoubtable for their fire power and wide firing range.

However, with their dash and skill, the patriots find efficient antitankers. They combine frontal attacks with

Realities on the battlefield have corroborated the truth that the essential factor of victory is always the mobility and iron will of the combatants who fight for a just cause chiefly when they are in possession of so varied an efficacious weaponry as the P.L.A.F. at present. Thus in the Tay Ninh campaign in the summer of 1968, at Cha Lu and Tra Phi where Abrams set up his "armoured belts", the relentless attacks by the P.L.A.F. cost him hundreds of vehicles: 174 in the first period (from August 17 to 21) and 176 in the second one (from August 22 to 26). He suffered the same period of similar losses at Ben Cu, Ong Hung, on the Tay Ninh - Da Nang road, around Loc Ninh (in early September) as well as in engagements southeast of Da Nang and in Quang Ngai province. All this is proof positive that the armour which the enemy clothes his positions cannot stand the patriots' onslaughts and save the aggressor and his puppets from annihilation: it supplies fresh evidence of the bankruptcy of U.S. "panzer" tactics in South Viet Nam.

spearheads and concentrate their fire on a well-chosen narrow spot on the outer armour of the enemy system to which they penetrate in no time. Operating in the centre of this system, they attack the enemy resistance nests in the rear, and, like an explosive charge rammed deep into a rock, they destroy the enemy position from within. Very often, the enemy has no time to rescue threatened points, to prop up one another or to launch effective counter-attacks. What happened at Duc Lap at the end of August and beginning of September last, at Loc Ninh and in Quang Tri province, south of the demilitarized zone, where U.S. fortified camps were taken by main force, has shown the futility of Abrams's effort.

THE fate of the enemy's armoured forces as elements of intervention is no better. Take, for instance, the operations in Da Nang region end of August last. At that time, the enemy defence system was broken through in the south and southeast by the P.L.A.F. occupation of many positions along the Cam Lo river and on the Non Nuoc marble mountain. An armoured squadron and an infantry regiment mounted a counter-attack to drive the people's forces far from the town. In three days, August 23-25, in skillfully laid ambushes and well-coordinated attacks, the patriotic forces completely wiped out the armoured squadron and two infantry battalions. On August 25, 20 armoured vehicles were rapidly reduced into heaps of scrap iron.

August 22 was the most disastrous day for the enemy armoured cars which were destroyed by bazooka fire of the patriots fighting in Da Nang streets, while 60 km further southeast, near the Tam Ky provincial capital, a heavy armoured column was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. who destroyed or damaged 60 armoured cars and tanks. A third squadron of the puppet army lost all its 33 vehicles.

In Nam Bo, U.S. armoured forces

FAILURE OF U.S. PANZER WAR

ACCORDING to still incomplete figures, in the three weeks at the end of August and beginning of September, at least 173 American vehicles were destroyed or damaged in Quang Tri province and around Da Nang, 207 others in Loc Ninh region, 250 in the Western High Plateaux. With its strategic situation and its terrain suitable to massive deployment of panzers, Tay Ninh province was a real cemetery of American armor. While in Winter 1966 - Spring 1967, Westmoreland lost 203 vehicles, Abrams outdid him by having 835 engines destroyed from August 19 to September 21.

These huge losses have greatly affected the morale of enemy troops.

received very hard blows. September 14, an enemy column moving on the Hon Quan - Loc Ninh road, had 30 vehicles destroyed. In three armoured columns on August 25, on Road No. 22, southeast of Tay Ninh, the P.L.A.F. within 150 minutes put out of action 13 enemy vehicles and captured 8 armoured cars; a column of 120 vehicles was completely wiped out. At the end of August last, on the Tay Ninh - Da Nang road, the patriots set 7 ambushes, putting out of action nearly 200 tanks, armoured cars and military trucks.

But the "regular" troops are not the only ones to destroy panzers. Regional forces and guerrillas have now light but efficient anti-tank arms such as the famous M-40 bazookas, lethal mines and other devastating devices. Thus, in the Western High Plateaux, in the engagements fought on August 17, 23 and 31, the highlanders succeeded in destroying or damaging 150 enemy vehicles. Holding the records in this regard were such P.L.A.F. fighters as Tran Van Phong who destroyed 4 armoured vehicles with 4 anti-tank shells, a young girl in Da Nang who achieved the same exploit and Tran Van Ut who improved the performance by scoring 5 direct hits with 5 shells.

In the last few months many of them refused to board armoured carriers to go into action. Near Da Nang, elements of the puppet 30th Ranger Battalion pushed in the thick of the fight, destroying three M.113's and killing and wounding 54 die-hard, and passed over to the side of the patriots. In an ambush laid on August 25 on Road No. 22, many U.S. tank crew abandoned their vehicles to save their bacon at the first explosion of P.L.A.F. shells.

There cannot be any clearer symptomatic signs of the failure of the panzer tactics fattered by Abrams.

Enemy tank captured by Liberation fighters

VIET NAM COURIER

SECOND ANTI-U.S. IMPERIALISM FROM OPENED AND CONSOLIDATED IN THE UNITED STATES

THREE years ago, through heroic protest and action against the U.S. war of aggression in Viet Nam (draft-card burning, self-immolation, while by fire) the first Americans fighting for peace and justice in Viet Nam heralded the storm that was going to sweep down on the ramparts of the American imperial political entities have rocked the country. From San Francisco to Washington, from Miami to Detroit, the popular campaign against the Vietnam war, in coordination with actions for civil rights and democracy, has been rising like a tidal wave.

While a few years ago only a handful of American citizens, for the sake of humanity and fraternity came out against the war of aggression in Viet Nam, their numbers have swollen to millions: workers, peasants, students, scientists, craftsmen, religious believers, Negroes, Indians... According to still incomplete figures, more than 370 mass organizations in 49 States and 412 cities are struggling against the war of aggression in Viet Nam and for civil rights, and more than ten million people have participated in demonstrations against the "dirty" war.

In the course of this struggle, the American people have become aware of the true nature of the Viet Nam problem and put out relevant watchwords. Right from the start of the cynical "escalation" on North Viet Nam, and especially since Johnson gave the order to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong, people of all walks of life in the U.S.A. had been insisting on an immediate and unconditional halt to the bombing. Another watchword of the popular drives was withdrawal of G.I.s from South Viet Nam, recognition of the N.F.L. and negotiations with it in order to find a settlement to the Viet Nam problem. More and more progressive Americans have realized the righteousness of the Vietnamese people's struggle and have wholeheartedly participated in the collection of blood, money and medicines for the Vietnamese people. Spectacularly, by American students and youths against the draft have seriously delayed the Pentagon's plans for recruiting G.I.s and sending them to Viet Nam.

U.S. logistics have suffered from strikes by tens of thousands of workers and by intellectual working branches serving the war in Viet Nam: production of arm and military engineering industries of civil aeronautics, shipbuilding, maritime transport, etc. Desertion and insubordination by both white and Black soldiers in protest against the war of aggression launched by American financial magnates have contributed to fanning operational plans and undermining the morale of U.S. satellite and puppet troops.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam is not only accelerating the pauperization of the American toiling masses but also alarmingly reduces the American insurance corporations reserved by the American capitalist state for the building of hospitals, schools, parks have been slashed. The anti-

nurtured the hope of revolutionary change in the U.S.A., corroding its senile body. But this policy has exacerbated the social and economic ills of the U.S.A. while the use of troops and police dogs, of bombs and poisons against the Vietnamese people, who harbour no hatred for the American imperialists, has had the effect of a crushing indictment exposing before the average American the blood-sucking nature of the Big Business monopolists. The unjust and immoral desecration perpetrated by the American imperialists in Viet Nam each day have shocked American conscience and sullied American honour. It is this emotional factor which constantly works on the American people's fighting.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam has turned the USA against the Vietnamese people, a store of cannon, shells and an immense camp of military forced labour. More than a half million "boys" are offered as bait for powder by the sharks of US finance; many have died in the ricefields, streams and jungle of Viet Nam.

Washington's war of aggression in Viet Nam has not only outraged the feelings of American citizens but has also dealt a severe blow to their living standards. The constant economic burdens. While 30 million Americans cannot eat their fill, the White House has staked a colossal sum in the order of 100 million dollars of the 1964-65 fiscal year have swollen to 150 million in 1965-66 fiscal year. Dr. Martin Luther King, eminent Negro leader, bitterly made this calculation: while dozens of billions were sent down the drain of the war in Viet Nam, the war against poverty received only \$3 dollars per year per head.

The enormous expenditures required by "escalation" have pared down reserves, diminished and slowed the rate of development of the various branches of civilian production, and hastened the deterioration of the national economy. Johnson has let it be known that the U.S.A. has brought about a 35-per cent deficit for the American budget in 1968. In June 1968, to fill that yawning gap, the U.S. financial oligarchy has frantically raised taxes on workers' wages, and on the salaries of other working people while increasing indirect taxes and issuing more banknotes and bonds.

At the date of July 1, 1968, each American family pays 500 dollars in taxes on the war of aggression in Viet Nam. This is the direct cause of a terrible evil for the American economy: a gold hemorrhage, the "agony of the dollar", the aggression in Viet Nam is not only accelerating the pauperization of the American toiling masses but also alarmingly reduces the American insurance corporations reserved by the American capitalist state for the building of hospitals, schools, parks have been slashed. The anti-

MOTIVES OF STRUGGLE

BY starting its war of aggression in Viet Nam, the American imperialism

poverty budget has been trimmed and student scholarships cut down. Hence military and social degradation has been precipitated while the use of troops and police dogs, of bombs and poisons against the Vietnamese people, who harbour no hatred for the American imperialists, has had the effect of a crushing indictment exposing before the average American the blood-sucking nature of the Big Business monopolists. The unjust and immoral desecration perpetrated by the American imperialists in Viet Nam each day have shocked American conscience and sullied American honour. It is this emotional factor which constantly works on the American people's fighting.

The war of aggression in Viet Nam is a veritable nightmare for the U.S.A., a burden on its material and spiritual life, on the body and soul of the American citizen. It has been bringing ruin and increasing realization that the drive for an end to the war in Viet Nam is not only a fight for freedom and peace but also one for the defence of the interests of the American people. The Viet Nam war has shown to the latter that the "paradise of the free world" in the U.S.A. is so much vituperated by the pen hirings of the bourgeoisie, is but the "national nightmare" that the "Great Society" advertised in hundreds of Johnson speeches is but a pipe-dream.

The great successes won by the Vietnamese people in their revolutionary struggle for national salvation, have brought home to the American people that U.S. counter-revolutionary violence is not inevitable, and this has encouraged them to forge ahead with the struggle for their rights.

The Cost of Butter; The Cost of Guns

A DO-IT-YOURSELF COMPARISON TEST

COST OF WAR IN VIET NAM

\$30 billion each year	2.5 billion each month
\$8.2 million each day	3.42 million each hour
\$7,000 each minute	950 each second

Problem
L.B.J.'s 10 percent tax surcharge will add an estimated \$10.8 billion to the budget.

Problem
How many months of war will the surtax buy?

A: We could eliminate the need for the 10 percent tax surcharge if we stopped the war 4 months and 1 day sooner.

Problem
Gov. Kerner's U.S. Report says we need 500,000 new housing units in 1969.

A: We could build 300,000 new housing units with the money we'd save if we stopped the war 2 months sooner.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$5 million from Head Start program.

A: How many hours of war would stop those funds?

A: 7 1/2 hours if we would pay for \$25 million from Head Start.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$17 million from school-

A: We could create 400,000 new jobs with the money we'd save if we stopped the war 14 minutes sooner.

WE WISH THE AMERICAN PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE MANY MORE SUCCESSES

THE revolutionary movement of the world people, the centre of which is now in Viet Nam, constitutes the first anti-American imperialism from an American society the last few years.

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half way around the world to call on the people of the U.S.A. and the world to oppose the war in Viet Nam. Dr. Benjamin Spock, who before the American court voiced his condemnation of the barbarous designs and deeds of the U.S. aggressors. The strength of the just struggle can also be seen in the tumultuous rallies and demonstrations in big American cities and towns. These fine images of progressive Americans in the hearts of our people and in those of peace, justice and freedom-loving people the world over.

The Vietnamese people send their cordial greetings to, and express their militant solidarity with, the 200 million Americans. The "sincerely thank workers", youth, student, and women's organisations and progressive intellectuals, members of Congress, and priests in the U.S.A. who courageously continue to raise their voices and stage demonstrations against the criminal aggression pursued by the American imperialists. The legitimate struggle of the patriotic forces in Viet Nam (""). We sincerely wish the American progressives many more and still bigger successes in their just struggle.

(*) From President Ho Chi Minh's speech at the American Review Minority of One.

aid to federally impacted areas.

Q: How many hours of war would stop those funds?

A: 5 hours of war would pay for school and cut from low-income areas.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$25 million from new health research facilities construction.

Q: How many hours of war would stop those funds?

A: 8 1/2 hours of war would pay for \$25 million cut from health research facilities.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$34 million from college building, books, equipment, stipends, and testing grants.

Q: How many days of war would stop those funds?

A: 1 1/2 days of war would pay for \$34 million cut from colleges.

Problem
L.B.J.'s austerity budget cuts \$17 million from school-

A: Striked on a Women Base for Peace leaflet.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

MILITARY OPERATIONS

SINCE Nov. 1 PLAF attacks have been kept up across South Viet Nam.

Most remarkable victories have been won in Ben Tre province (Mekong estuaries) where from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4, the patriots destroyed an 18-vessel river flotilla including a 250-metre long ship and put 1,000 GIs and puppet soldiers out of action.

Important successes have also been obtained in Tay Ninh province where the U.S. command has just hastily transferred the *First Air Cavalry* from the Hue—Quang Tri sector in the Far North: From Nov. 4 to Nov. 7, at 3 places in this province, the PLAF inflicted at least 300 U.S. puppet casualties, destroyed 2 U.S. platoons and shot down 5 choppers.

Close to the 17th parallel, just South of the demilitarized zone, from Nov. 7 to Nov. 10, 280 enemy troops, mostly GIs, were killed or wounded.

Particular mention should be made of the activities of artillerymen who have been daily slamming shells on the adversary bases and positions (about 40) from the Northern-most sector to the Mekong Delta. Some targets received as many as from 50 to 150 projectiles.

The hunt for planes and helicopters conducted by fighters of the regional forces and guerilla corps has been particularly fruitful: 65 engines cut down between Oct. 2 and Nov. 7. Regional troops and guerillas also wiped out 1,500 adverse soldiers in 13 days ending Nov. 7.

NEW SUCCESSES OF THE P.L.A.F. IN BEN TRE PROVINCE

COUNTERING a major sweep involving elements of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division and 3 regiments of puppet Division 7, on Nov. 1, the patriots intercepted a U.S. river fleet comprising a 250-metre long vessel and many landing craft and lighters on the Mekong, about a dozen kilometres below My Tho city.

Their direct hits sank the

big vessel, 15 landing craft and 2 lighters. 500 G.I.s were killed or wounded and a vessel sent to the bottom with a helicopter on board. Two days later, enemy forces swept 14 villages of Gieng Tron district, Southeast of Ben Tre city, about 20 km south of the previous scene of fighting where the river fleet was destroyed. On Nov. 3, more than 130 U.S. puppet troops were put out of action and a helicopter grounded. Next day, a major battle took place at Son Thu (6 km South of Ben Tre).

Throughout the day, 20 enemy assaults were repulsed by the P.L.A.F. which inflicted 400 casualties and brought down 2 choppers. Four enemy battalions and 4 companies suffered serious losses.

All told, from Nov. 1 to Nov. 4, the enemy lost in this sector over 1,000 men, 18 vessels and lighters sunk and 4 choppers shot down or destroyed.

This was the 2nd great disaster the enemy had experienced in this sector in a week. It should be recalled that in the other action which took place from Sept. 15 to Oct. 25, the P.L.A.F. of Ben Tre put 4,500 adversaries out of action, sunk or burnt 79 vessels and motor launches and shot down or damaged 25 planes and helicopters.

P.L.A.F. RENEWED OFFENSIVE IN TAY NINH PROVINCE

AT the end of Oct., Abrams pulled the *First Air Cavalry* out of the theatre of operation in the Northern sector and deployed it into Tay Ninh province to face the increasing pressure of the P.L.A.F. Very soon after their arrival, the "flying horsemen" took serious beatings. On Nov. 4, at a point about 50 km Northeast of Tay Ninh, close to the border, a G.I. platoon was wiped out. Next day, a puppet paratroop battalion suffered 120 casualties 20 km South Southeast of Tay Ninh. On Nov. 6, the *First Air Cavalry* had 180 men including a captain wiped out some 40 km Northwest of the same city. On Nov. 7, GIs sent in to remove the dead suffered further losses: one platoon destroyed.

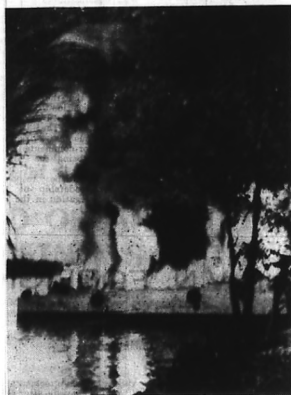
In the last days of Oct. sharp engagement took place in the Saigon area. On the night of Oct. 28 to Oct. 29, nearly 300 adverse troops including 200 GIs were killed or wounded and captainments burnt, some 20 km south of the city. In the Southeast of the city, on the shipping channel, 4 enemy vessels were sunk and 3 others burnt on Dong Tranh river on Oct. 24 and Oct. 26. At 20 km south of Nha Be, the U.S. freighter *Fred Morris* was hit on Nov. 3 by the patriots' shells.

On Oct. 25, at the U.S. Dong Da base, near Cu Chi (40 km northwest of Saigon) the guerillas succeeded in blasting down a club of the *Tropic Lightning* Division, killing or wounding 119 GIs among them 8 senior officers.

Liberation People's Committee Set Up In Kien Phong Province

A congress was held on October 17 in Kien Phong province to appoint a 7-member Liberation People's Committee for the province.

The congress was attended by members of the local NFL representatives of various services, mass organizations, religious sects, political parties and many personalities and intellectuals.



U.S. ship burnt on the Perfume River in the very heart of Hue city.

A U.S. Bomb Takes 103 Casualties at South Viet Nam Market

ON November 1, a F-4 jet plane dropped four 250-kg bombs on Tam Hoa village, 30 km southwest of Da Nang, UPI reported. One of them fell on the market, killing 31 people, wounding 72 others and destroying or damaging about twenty houses.

The new crime committed in a region still held by the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys has touched off a wave of indignation among the local people. As it could not be hushed up, the spokesman of the U.S. Marines at Da Nang tried to whitewash it by

saying that it was a "mistake."

PREVIOUSLY on Oct. 24, in Kien Phong province, American air strikes had destroyed Ong Chin pagoda, Nhi Binh village, Cao Lanh district. It was the tenth time that this pagoda had been subjected to U.S.A.F. attacks.

Since the beginning of 1968, four pagodas, four churches, a Cao Dai Holy See and a Protestant temple in that province have been destroyed by the enemy.

In Saigon, on Nov. 13 patriots meted out due punishment to cruel agents right in the street and safely made off.

ACTIVITIES OF ARTILLERYMEN

AT least 40 military targets were pounded by the patriots from Nov. 2 to Nov. 4. The hardest hit were several U.S. artillery positions in Gio Linh, Con Tien and Cam Lo, South of the 17th parallel, a position of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division and a sub-sector HQ near Hue city, a puppet position at Tam Ky and another at Quang Ngai, Southeast of Da Nang. A number of U.S.

bases in the Western High lands, especially at An Khe (where a million litres of petrol were burned by a fire touched off by a previous shelling on Oct. 30 near Dakto), the Buon Me Thuot airfield and the CP of the Quang Duc sector at Gio Ngai also came under shelling. Heavy artillery barrages were unleashed against the sector HQ's at Hau Ngai (40 km West - Northwest of Saigon), Long Khanh (50 km North - Northeast of Saigon) and Can Tho (Mekong delta). The Tan Thanh airfield near Ben Tre also came under fire as well as positions North of Saigon and in My Tho province.